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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/527,951

03/15/2005

Ercan Ferit Gigi

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PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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SAN JOSE, CA 95131

EXAMINER

LENNOX, NATALIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,951

Applicant(s)

GIGI, ERCAN FERIT

Examiner

Natalie Lennox

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the unlabeled rectangular boxes shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 4-12 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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2. Claims 1-5, 10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coorman et al. (US Patent 6,665,641).

As per claim 1, Coorman et al. teach a method of synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval (Col. 8, lines 10-28, wherein the first speech input signal is the first waveform and wherein the trailing edge is the end interval (lines 23-24),
- providing a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval (Col. 8, lines 10-28, wherein the second speech input signal is the second waveform and wherein the leading edge is the front interval (lines 24-25),
- appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),
- appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),
- superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals (Col. 18, lines 56-64, wherein the overlap and add procedure represents the superposing of the intervals).

As per claim 2, Coorman et al. teach the method of claim 1, whereby the end and front intervals have approximately steady periods (Col. 9, lines 51-56, and Col. 19, line 66 to Col. 20, line 6).

As per claim 3, Coorman et al. teach the method of claim 1 or 2, the end and front intervals being identified by a marker (Col. 13, lines 39-44, wherein the anchor on the left phone is the front interval marker and the anchor on the right phone is the end interval marker).

As per claim 13, Coorman et al. teach a computer program product, in particular, digital storage medium, comprising program means for synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the program means being adapted to perform the steps of:

- providing a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval (Col. 8, lines 10-28, wherein the first speech input signal is the first waveform and wherein the trailing edge is the end interval (lines 23-24),
- providing a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval (Col. 8, lines 10-28, wherein the second speech input signal is the second waveform and wherein the leading edge is the front interval (lines 24-25),
- appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),

- appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),
- superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals (Col. 18, lines 56-64, wherein the overlap and add procedure represents the superposing of the intervals).

As per claim 14, Coorman et al. teach a computer system, in particular text-to-speech system, for synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the computer system comprising:

- means for storing of a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval, and for storing of a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval (speech unit database 141 from Fig. 1 and Col. 9, lines 51-54, also Col. 8, lines 10-28, wherein the first speech input signal is the first waveform and wherein the trailing edge is the end interval, and wherein the second speech input signal is the second waveform and wherein the leading edge is the front interval),
- means for appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),
- means for appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in

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inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval (Col. 18, lines 56-64),

- means for superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals (Col. 18, lines 56-64, wherein the overlap and add procedure represents the superposing of the intervals).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Coorman et al. (US 2002/0143526) provides fast waveform synchronization for concentration and time-scale modification of speech.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie Lennox whose telephone number is (571) 270-1649. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30 am - 7 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NL 10/31/2007



TĀLIVALDIS IVĀRS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER